



## **PROGRESS REPORT NO. 156**

**TO:** Robert Tan, U.S. Environmental Protection Agency (EPA) – via Email  
Kathryn Cerise, EPA – via Email

**FROM:** Kris McCaig, Teck American Incorporated (TAI)

**Cc:** Denise Mills, TAI – via Email  
Monica Tonel, EPA – via Email

**DATE:** July 1, 2019

**FILE NO:** 01-773180-000

**RE:** Upper Columbia River (UCR) Remedial Investigation/Feasibility Study  
(RI/FS) - Progress Report No. 156 Month Ending June 2019

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Pursuant to Paragraph 39 of the June 2, 2006 Settlement Agreement (Agreement), the following is intended to provide a summary of activities completed during the past month in compliance with the aforementioned Agreement. It is also intended to provide a brief summary of pending and on-going activities.

Plant Tissue Study – TAI submitted the Final Plant Tissue Study Data Summary Report (DSR) to EPA and the UCR distribution list on June 12, 2019. EPA finalized the Plant Tissue Study Inter-Laboratory Split Sample Chemistry Comparison/Evaluation report and delivered it and related documents (e.g., laboratory electronic data deliverables and laboratory reports) to TAI on June 13, 2019.

Soil Amendment Technology Evaluation Study (SATES) – TAI continued coordination with the SATES team and Kira Lynch, Superfund Technology Liaison with the Office of Research and Development, Office of Science and Policy during the month.

TAI continued coordinating with Ohio State University (OSU) laboratory to perform the bench-scale testing of the selected soil amendments. OSU has received the soluble phosphate, wood ash, biochar, and compost for the tests. TAI continued working with the biosolids supplier writing to obtain other material needed for the bench tests. OSU initiated the test to evaluate the proposed phosphate application rates on June 10, 2019; incubations for this test started on June 20 and will continue for two weeks until approximately July 5, 2019.

TAI received EPA's final QAPP for the biochar project from Kira Lynch on June 24, 2019. TAI coordinated with its consultant to plan for soil collection in July from one of the SATES test plots following the same EPA-approved work plan and procedures that were prepared for collecting soil for the bench tests.

#### Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment:

Soil Toxicity Reference Values (TRVs) – TAI delivered a draft technical memorandum “Soil Screening Levels for Plants and Invertebrates for the Baseline Ecological Risk Assessment” to EPA on June 25, 2019 for review and comment.

Wildlife TRVs – TAI received an electronic mail message from EPA on June 7, 2019 indicating that EPA had reviewed the May 22, 2019 revised UCR Wildlife TRV document, the revisions were acceptable and EPA had no further comments. TAI worked to finalize the document during the month of June with a plan to submit the Final UCR Wildlife TRV Document to EPA by July 8, 2019.

Sediment and Porewater TRVs – TAI and EPA held a Sediment and Porewater TRV workshop in Spokane on March 5-6, 2019 to work through EPA's comments on the October 2019 draft final TRV document. Follow up actions continued during the month on June.

Chemicals of Potential Concern (COPC) Refinement Document – TAI delivered a revised Draft Final COPC Refinement Document to EPA on May 31, 2019 and is awaiting further comments or approval from EPA.

Phase 3 Sediment Study – TAI delivered the draft quality assurance project plan (QAPP) for the 2019 Phase 3 Sediment Study to EPA on June 17, 2019 for review and comment. TAI provided a separate letter to EPA on June 17, 2019 transmitting TAI's responses to EPA's May 1, 2019 letter with compiled comments on the March 13, 2019 Draft Final Phase 3 Sediment Study Data Quality Objectives (DQOs) 2 through 5.

Soil Background Assessment – TAI delivered the draft Technical Memorandum Background Concentrations of Metals and Metalloids in Upland Soils to EPA on June 28, 2019 for review and comment.

Delineation Study – TAI is in receipt of a letter from EPA dated June 28, 2019 with supplemental comments on the TAI's UCR RI/FS Preliminary Draft DQOs for the Delineation Study; TAI received overarching comments on the preliminary draft DQOs, via electronic mail on February 15, 2019 with a request for a meeting to discuss the comments. TAI and EPA have scheduled a meeting in August 2019 to discuss the comments.

#### Human Health Risk Assessment (HHRA):

TAI delivered comments on the Draft Upland Baseline HHRA to EPA on June 5, 2019. EPA provided responses to TAI's comments on June 24, 2019 in a table

attached to an electronic mail message. EPA and TAI began discussing EPA's responses during a conference call on June 25, 2019.

TAI received an electronic mail message from EPA on June 28, 2019 with an attached file containing EPA's response to TAI comments on the Draft Final Data Analysis Report for the Recreational Use Survey for the UCR Site HHRA and RI/FS.

Data Management Plan – TAI delivered the Final Data Management Plan Addendum No. 1 to EPA on June 5, 2019.

Should you have any questions or require any additional information, please do not hesitate to contact me at 509-623-4501.